month of January, 2000 along with the amount of the same during the month of January, 2001; and

(c) the inflow of foreign exchange in terms of loans in the country along with the rate of interest of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The country's foreign exchange reserves increased from US $34.9 billion at end-December, 1999 to US $40.1 billion at end-December, 2000, an increase of US $5.2 billion during January 2000 to December 2000. The level of forex reserves at end-January, 2001 was US $41.1 billion as compared to US $34.9 billion at end-January 2000.

(c) The Movements in foreign exchange reserves reflect the net outcome of inflows and outflows of foreign exchange on account of transactions in the current and capital accounts of India's balance of payments. Therefore, it is not possible to establish a one-to-one correspondence between changes in reserves and the inflows outflows arising from each of these transactions during any particular period. Nevertheless, the capital flows during 2000-01 have been augmented by the inflow of about US $5.5 billion from India Millennium Deposits (IMD) floated by the State Bank of India in October/November 2000, with an interest rate of 8.5 per cent per annum on US dollar deposits.

Allotment of PAN

625. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PAN has not been issued to the applicants who had applied in the year 1998.

(b) if so, what has been the number of PAN applications received and allotted by the Income Tax Department during the last three years till date, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) how many new assessees have been added each year in the income net since the introduction of PAN system;

(d) whether Government could achieve the target fixed for income tax collection during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the amount collected, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As against 2,02,71,569 applications received for allotment of Permanent Account Number, 1,96,44,824 applications have been processed upto 31st December 2000 and 1,82,66,786 Permanent Account Numbers have been allotted. In the remaining processed cases PAN could not be allotted on account of core deficiencies in the applications forms for which deficiency letters have been sent to the applicants. Further action for allotment of PAN in these cases can be taken only on receipt of replies from the applicants. Remaining PAN applications have been received in the recent months and all out efforts are being made for expeditious allotment of PAN to the applicants. The details of applications received, PAN allotted and new assessees added, year-wise are enclosed as statement. (*See* below). The State-wise figure of PAN application and allotment is not compiled in the Income Tax Department.

(d) The target fixed for Income Tax collection during the current financial year is likely to be achieved.

(e) The State-wise figure of Income tax collection during the current financial year, amounting to Rs. 21,802 Crores as at the end of January 2001, is not compiled as yet.

Statement

Number of applications received for PAN and allotted during last three years

(In lakh)

Financial year	No. of applications received during the year	No. of PAN allotted during the year	No. of new assessees added during the year
1995-96	992,447	519,130	10.90
1996-97	830,062	671,652	15.04
1997-98	885,076	742,666	23.32
1998-99	14,623,988	9,541,669	41.68
1999-2000	1,566,577	5,066,981	32.99
2000-2001 (upto 31-12-2000)	1,373,419	1,724,688	
TOTAL:	20,271,569	18,266,786	

Conversion of post of Head Clerks in State Bank of Indore

626. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Head Clerks converted into Special Assistants by the State Bank of Indore so far branch-wise and the number of posts of Head-Clerks not converted so far;

(b) the reasons for not converting remaining posts of Head-Clerks till now;

(c) whether it is a fact that some employees of the Bank had submitted their options for conversion last year which have not been considered till now;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay to accept their requests for conversion; and

(e) by when action is likely to be taken on their options?